WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An armrest apparatus comprises:

a fixed shaft fixed to a seat frame;

a rotation plate integrally connected to an armrest body and having a tubular portion into which the fixed shaft is inserted, so that the tubular portion is rotatably supported on the fixed shaft;

a lock spring wound tightly on outer peripheral surfaces of a part of the fixed shaft and the tubular portion of the rotation plate in a free condition, one end of the lock spring being formed into a fixing-side hook retained by the rotation plate, while the other end thereof being formed into a free-side hook;

a cancellation block rotatably mounted on a pivot shaft, the pivot shaft being fixedly mounted on the rotation plate in parallel to the fixed shaft, and is disposed adjacent to the free-side hook; and

a cam unit mounted on a distal end of the fixed shaft and including a lock-canceling cam portion and a re-lock cam portion,

wherein while the armrest body being pivotally moved in a storing direction, the free-side hook abuts against the lock-canceling cam portion through the cancellation block, and the lock-canceling cam portion expands the lock spring in an unwinding direction to enlarge its diameter to cancel a locked

condition of the armrest body,

the re-lock cam portion is spaced from the lock-canceling cam portion in a direction of rotation of the cam member, while the armrest body being pivotally moved in an opening direction, the free-side hook abuts against the re-lock cam portion through the cancellation block, and the re-lock cam portion causes the lock spring to spring back in a diameter-reducing direction to lock the armrest body.

2. An armrest apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising:

a spring pin mounted on the cancellation block,

wherein while the armrest body is pivotally moved in the storing direction, the spring pin abuts against the lock-canceling cam portion to push up the cancellation block, and the cancellation block has a flat portion for abutting engagement with the lock-canceling cam portion to hold the cancellation block in the pushed-up position, and

while the armrest body is pivotally moved in the opening direction, the spring pin abuts against the re-lock cam portion, so that the cancellation block is rotated in a reverse direction to cause the lock spring to spring back in the diameter-reducing direction, thereby holding the armrest body in the locked condition.

3. An armrest apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the angle of mounting of the cam member relative to the seat frame about its axis, a peripheral length of the lock-canceling cam portion, and the distance between the lock-canceling cam portion and the re-lock cam portion are determined in accordance with the operating position of the armrest and the range of operation thereof.

4. An armrest apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the rotation plate has a stamped-out projected portion which limits the range of rotation of the cancellation block.

5. An armrest apparatus according claim 1, wherein a return spring is fitted on the pivot shaft, is retained at one end thereof by the rotation plate, and at the other end thereof by the cancellation block, and

the cancellation block is urged by the return spring in a direction toward or away from the free-side hook.

6. An armrest apparatus according to claim 1, wherein a frictional resistance member is provided between the pivot shaft and the cancellation block.